

Refocusing on Literacy for ALL

School District of La Crosse
January 2008



Overview

- I. Background Information - District
- II. Pulling it all together
- III. How do we do it
- IV. Monitoring progress

From Fragmentation to Focused Collaboration

- "RtI has the very real potential of promoting cooperation and comprehensive approaches to solving students' reading problems before the corrosive and nearly insurmountable effects of repeated failure set in."

Roger Farstrup, Executive Director, International Reading Association – December 2007 issue of *Reading Today*

I. Background Info

Our District's Situation



Student Facts

- 7,140 students PK-12
 - 10 elementary schools + 2 charters
 - 3 middle schools + 1 charter
 - 2 high schools + 1 charter
- 12% special education
- 20% minority; x% ELL
- 40% free/reduced

Staff Facts

- 15 principals & 7 associates
- 635 teachers
 - 16 ELL
 - 29 LD
 - 15 Title I
- Teacher Specialists
 - 2 elementary reading specialists
 - 3 middle school reading specialists
 - 3 K-8 high performance specialists
 - 1 ELL Coordinator

Current District Processes-Site

- Site Teams: School Improvement Plans
- TAPS Teams: Team Approach to Problem Solving for classroom issues
- Staff Development options
 - district days, mini-courses, release time, staff mtg

Current Processes-District

- Teaching/Learning Council
 - Curriculum Cycle, Assessments, Instruction
- * Curriculum Team
 - Approval of changes to curriculum
- * Learner Needs Team
- Separate Coordination
 - Reading Specialists, ELL, Special Ed, HPL

Current Processes-Data

- Assessment & Data Collection
 - DRA fluency and comprehension
 - WKCE scores by subgroups
 - Courses and GPA
 - ELL and Special Ed data
 - Assessment 'Scope & Sequence'
- Annual June Data Retreats-teams

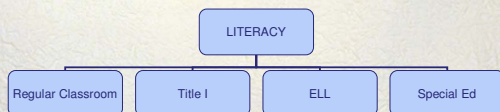
II. Pulling it all together



Initiatives

- REACH grants--interventions
- Response to Intervention (RtI)
- ELL: Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAO's)
- WKCE reading achievement-subgroups
- Adolescent Literacy
- Prevention + Intervention focus
- Reading Achievement for ALL

How do we connect them?

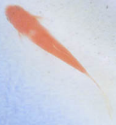


Literacy for ALL Goals

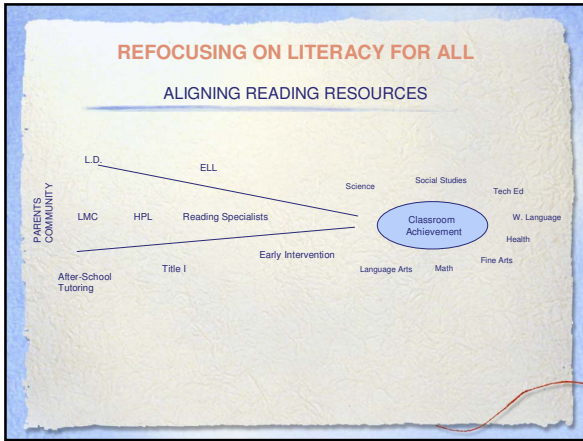
- Reduce fragmented approaches to literacy
- Connect regular ed, ELL, LD literacy through staff development & specialists
- Reinvent TAPS teams
- Excite principals about literacy achievement
- Use data to improve student achievement
- Create district energy and expertise around literacy at all levels--especially secondary

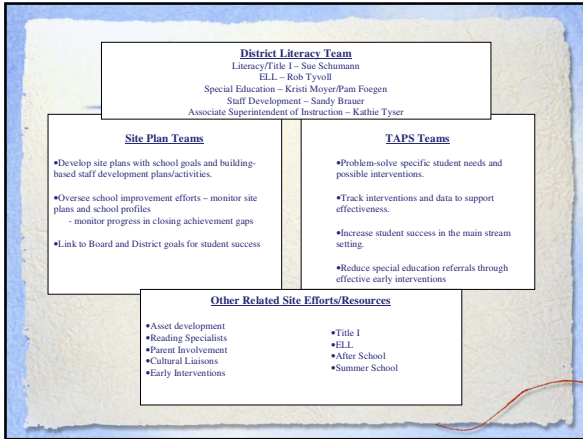
III. How do we do it?

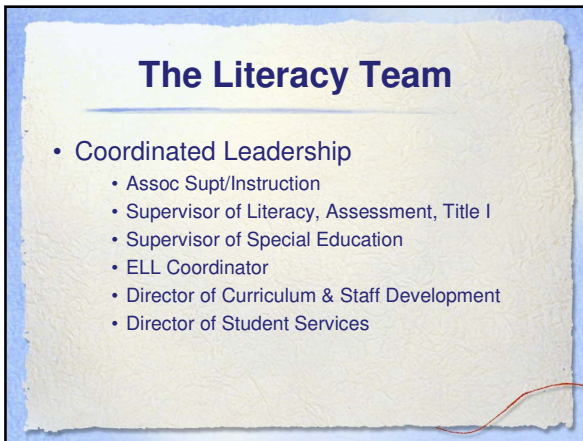
- 1-Create a simple vision
- 2- Form a district Literacy Team
- 3- Develop a plan for rolling out and sustaining efforts



The Vision







The Roll-Out: Site Teams

- June 2007 Data Retreat

- REACH grant presentations!
- Introduce basic vision to all
- Literacy mapping by sites
- Sites analyze reading data: DRA, WKCE
- Demonstration of possible Skyward reports

Elementary Language Arts Resource Map 2006-07

	Preschool/ Kindergarten	Elementary 1st-5th	Assessment	"Gaps/Needs" to Raise Achievement
Universal				
Selected				
Targeted				
Community and Parent Resources				
Specialized Staff Resources				

Roll-Out: Principals

- August 2007 Workshop for Principals

- Vision in more detail (handouts)
- Brainstorm possibilities
- Explain staff development efforts
- Stress collaboration and support

Literacy for All Initiative

An Overview

PHASE 1

I. Identify Site Leadership Teams/Clarify roles

Site Plan Team
TAPS Team
Others

II. Identify Literacy Best Practices

Universal: All students
Selected: Small groups
Targeted: Individuals

III. Self-Assessment:

What is working well?
What are the gaps/needs at your site?

PHASE 2

IV. Develop staff development options for specific groups/sites: Process + Content

V. Plan for systematic and ongoing data collection/review/follow-through

VI. Other steps to be developed

Staff Development & Literacy Team Planning

- August
- Fall half-day: site literacy teams
- January
- April
- June Data Retreat
-
- Ongoing Site efforts: release time
- TAPS team training
- New involvement by reading specialists

Sample Site Literacy Team Activities

- ELL, LD, Title I, reading specialist meet to review data, share best practices
- Grade level team: identify a common "unit/lesson"-plan, teach, assess, discuss
- Team analyzes individual student achievement data – plan interventions
- ELL Best Practices Notebook: review and discuss what works
- High school skills teachers to discuss teaching strategies
- Share new information from a conference related to interventions
- Principal meeting with teacher teams to discuss student achievement
- Others

Supporting & Guiding

- Monthly District Literacy Team meetings
- Principals' agendas
- Teaching/Learning Council agenda
- Special Ed meetings: TAPS process
- Reading specialists meetings
- Technology support-data collection

Literacy Support for Sites 2007-08

<u>District Funded Professional Development</u>		District Staff Development	
Staff Development days/speakers		District Title I for Title I schools/District curriculum funds	
Follow-up district workshops-subs		District Curriculum	
District-initiated Skills meetings-subs			
<u>Site-Managed Literacy Follow-Up</u>		District Student Services	
TAPS Teams-subs	\$3,000/site		
Other Literacy work	Options:	District Instruction	
Site Goals-staff development	Site Plan Allocation	District Title I	
	Title I Allocation for		
	qualified schools	District ELL	
District Title III	\$10,000	District Curriculum	
District Lang. Arts-carryover	\$10,000	District Title II	
District Title II+carryover	\$10,000		

IV. Monitoring Progress

Indicators of student progress?

Technology to support data analysis?

Indicators of staff learning?

System processes/procedures?



Steps Being Taken

- Refined data analysis for all students
- On-site meetings of classroom, Title I, ELL, LD with new awareness
- Learning how to track data on Skyward
- Monitoring TAPS activity (templates)
- Collecting site needs for “next steps”
- Principals sharing ‘what works’

Summary

Refocus
Re-energize
Reduce fragmentation



Maximizing Resources for Student Achievement

- Maximizing dollars
- Maximizing staff expertise
- Maximizing use of time by staff
- Central office-Site collaboration
- Clarifying reading approaches
 - Universal, Selected, Targeted

Good News so far!

- TAPS teams reforming
- Site meetings “best ever”
- Principals using staff meeting time
- Data tracking increasing
- Positive energy about “connecting dots”
- Staff development clearly focused
- Literacy Team in sync! High impact!

Questions?